

CHAPTER 14

FUNERALS

The funerals of soldiers, more than any other ceremony, have followed an old pattern as the living honor the brave dead.

14-1. HISTORY

Funeral services of great magnificence evolved as custom (from what is known about early Christian mourning) in the 6th century. To this day, no religious ceremonies are conducted with more pomp than those intended to commemorate the departed.

a. The first general mourning proclaimed in America was on the death of Benjamin Franklin in 1791 and the next on the death of George Washington in 1799. The deep and widespread grief occasioned by the death of the first President assembled a great number of people for the purpose of paying him a last tribute of respect. On Wednesday, 18 December 1799, attended by military honors and the simplest but grandest ceremonies of religion, his body was deposited in the family vault at Mount Vernon, Virginia.

b. Several military traditions employed today have been brought forward from the past.

(1) Reversed arms, displayed by one opponent on the battlefield, signaled that a truce was requested so that the dead and wounded could be carried off and the dead buried.

(2) Today's customary three volleys fired over a grave probably originated as far back as the Roman Empire. The Roman funeral rites of casting dirt three times on the coffin constituted the "burial." It was customary among the Romans to call the dead three times by name, which ended the funeral ceremony, after which the friends and relatives of the deceased pronounced the word "vale" (farewell) three times as they departed from the tomb. In more recent history, three musket volleys were fired to announce that the burying of the dead was completed and the burial party was ready for battle again.

(3) The custom of using a caisson to carry a coffin most likely had its origins in the 1800s when horse-drawn caissons that pulled artillery pieces also doubled as a conveyance to clear fallen soldiers from the battlefield.

(4) In the mid to late 1800s a funeral procession of a mounted officer or enlisted man was accompanied by a riderless horse in mourning caparison followed by a hearse. It was also a custom to have the boots of the deceased thrown over the saddle with heels to the front signifying that his march was ended.

14-2. TYPES OF FUNERALS

Military funerals are divided into two classes: chapel service, followed by movement to the grave or place of local disposition with the prescribed escort; and graveside service only.

a. A full military funeral normally consists of, or is supported by, the following elements:

- Casualty assistance officer (CAO).
- Noncommissioned officer in charge (NCOIC)—staff sergeant or above.
- Firing party (no more than eight, nor less than five, riflemen).
- Six pallbearers (at least one with the rank of sergeant or higher).
- One bugler to play "Taps" (or, as a minimum, a quality CD).

- Colors.
- Clergy.
- Hearse (caisson).
- Honorary pallbearers.
- Personal color (if appropriate).

b. The Casualty Assistance Command (CAC) provides burial honors, if requested, for deceased Army personnel, including active duty and retired personnel as well as reserve components and veterans. Burial with full honors is given to authorized personnel. A team, with a minimum of two service members, performs the ceremonial folding and presentation of the interment flag and playing of “Taps” for all veterans. The family of the deceased (or its representative) may request another clergyman to officiate in lieu of a military chaplain. A civilian clergyman can conduct all religious elements of a military funeral or interment. The desires of the family are given the fullest consideration possible in the selection of elements involved, but the funeral is conducted as prescribed in this manual.

14-3. INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITIES

The responsibilities of the individuals involved in a military funeral are as follows:

- a. **Casualty Assistance Office.** The casualty assistance office provides funeral detail requirements and the CAO’s name and phone number to the funeral detail NCOIC. It also coordinates bugler commitments.
- b. **Funeral Detail NCOIC.** The funeral detail NCOIC—
 - Provides the name of the NCOIC and the bugler pick-up time to the casualty assistance office after notification of funeral detail.
 - Requests transportation for the funeral detail through the transportation division.
 - Coordinates specifics with the funeral home, clergy, and chapel concerned.
 - Coordinates the use of a portable CD player for playing “Taps,” if needed.
 - Ensures all personnel participating in the funeral detail arrive at the designated place in sufficient time to make final coordination.
- c. **Transportation Division.** The transportation division provides transportation for funeral details, as required.
- d. **Casualty Assistance Officer.** The CAO—
 - Coordinates the ceremonial aspects of the funeral.
 - Ensures the chaplain receives a flag from the local Post Office or the installation.
 - Acts as OIC for the funeral detail and presents the flag to the deceased’s next of kin, when required.
- e. **Commanding Officer.** The commanding officer or his representative, in coordination with the cemetery superintendent and the funeral director, makes the funeral arrangements and supervises the conduct of the funeral.

14-4. PERSONNEL CONDUCT

Personnel involved with military funerals conduct themselves as described herein.

a. When honorary pallbearers are desired, they are selected by the family of the deceased or its representative, or by the commanding officer if the family wishes. As a rule, no more than twelve honorary pallbearers should be selected.

b. At a military funeral, persons in military uniform attending in their individual capacity face the casket and execute the *Hand Salute* at the following times: when honors, if any, are sounded; at any time the casket is being moved (the exception being when they themselves are moving); during *Cannon Salutes*, if sounded; during the firing of volleys; and while “Taps” is being played.

(1) Honorary pallbearers in uniform conform to those instructions when not in motion.

(2) Military personnel in civilian clothes in the above cases, and during the service at the grave, stand at *Attention*, uncover, and hold the headdress over the left shoulder with the right hand over the heart. If no headdress is worn, the right hand is held over the heart.

(3) Female military personnel in civilian clothes hold the right hand over the heart.

c. During the religious graveside service, all personnel bow their heads at the words “Let us pray.” All mourners at graveside, except the active pallbearers, follow the example of the officiating chaplain. If he uncovers, they uncover; if he remains covered, they remain covered. When the officiating chaplain wears a biretta (clerical headpiece) during the graveside service, all personnel, as indicated above, uncover. When the officiating chaplain wears a yarmulke (Jewish skull cap), all personnel remain covered.

d. The remains of a member of the armed forces who died while on active duty, may be consigned directly to a national cemetery from a military installation. In such cases, the cemetery superintendent will, regardless of time of arrival, if not otherwise provided for, engage a funeral director to receive the remains at the common carrier terminal, hold the remains at his establishment until the date of the funeral, if necessary, and deliver the remains to the cemetery. The superintendent will not authorize a funeral director to render any other service incident to the interment.

e. The word “chapel” is interpreted to include the church, home, or other place where services are held, other than the service at the grave. The word “casket” is interpreted to include a receptacle containing the cremated remains of the deceased.

14-5. FUNERAL WITH CHAPEL SERVICE (FULL MILITARY HONORS)

Use the following procedures to conduct a funeral in a chapel with full military honors.

a. At the chapel, the funeral detail forms as shown in Figure 14-1 (page 14-4). The NCOIC has all participants at *Parade Rest*. The firing party forms in two ranks facing each other and forming an aisle from the conveyance to the entrance of the chapel. The NCOIC and the pallbearers will be on line at normal interval facing the chapel and close to the designated arrival point of the conveyance. The NCOIC positions himself at the end of the pallbearers so that the conveyance passes him first as it approaches.

b. Members of the immediate family, relatives, friends of the deceased, and the CAO will be seated in the chapel before the conveyance arrives and the casket is taken into the chapel. Members of the immediate family and relatives occupy pews (seats) to the right (front) of the chapel.

c. As the conveyance comes into view, the NCOIC commands ***Escort, ATTENTION; Pallbearers, Center, FACE***. He salutes until the conveyance stops in front of the chapel. On the command ***Center, FACE***, the pallbearers face the designated arrival point of the conveyance (Figure 14-1). As the conveyance approaches, the NCOIC salutes to honor the National Colors draped over the casket and commands ***Order, ARMS*** after the conveyance halts.

d. If necessary, the NCOIC repositions the pallbearers at the rear of the conveyance.

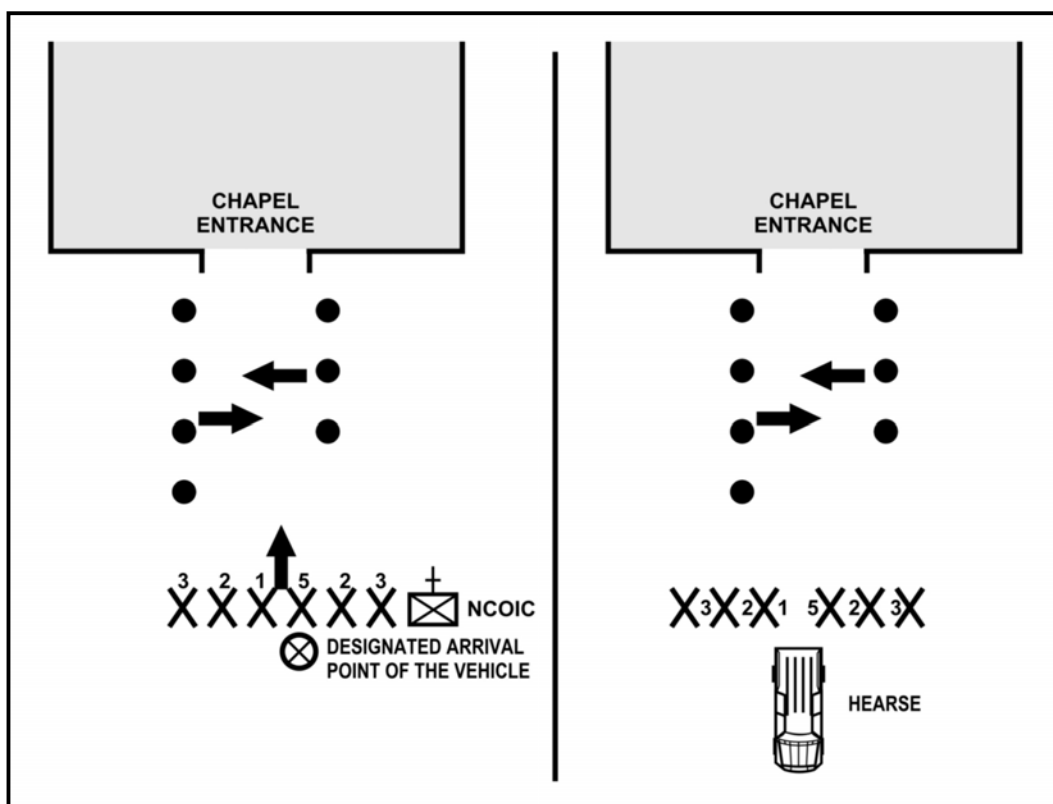


Figure 14-1. Funeral detail formation.

e. After the funeral director opens the doors of the hearse, the NCOIC and the firing party ***Present Arms***. The senior pallbearer, designated position 5, and the pallbearer in position 1 grasp the handles at the head of the casket. (The union of the flag is draped over this end.) They walk backwards, pulling the casket from the conveyance, allowing the pallbearers in positions 2 and 3 to grasp handles on the casket. The pallbearers handle the remains in a dignified, reverent, and military manner, ensuring the casket is carried level and feet first at all times (Figure 14-2).

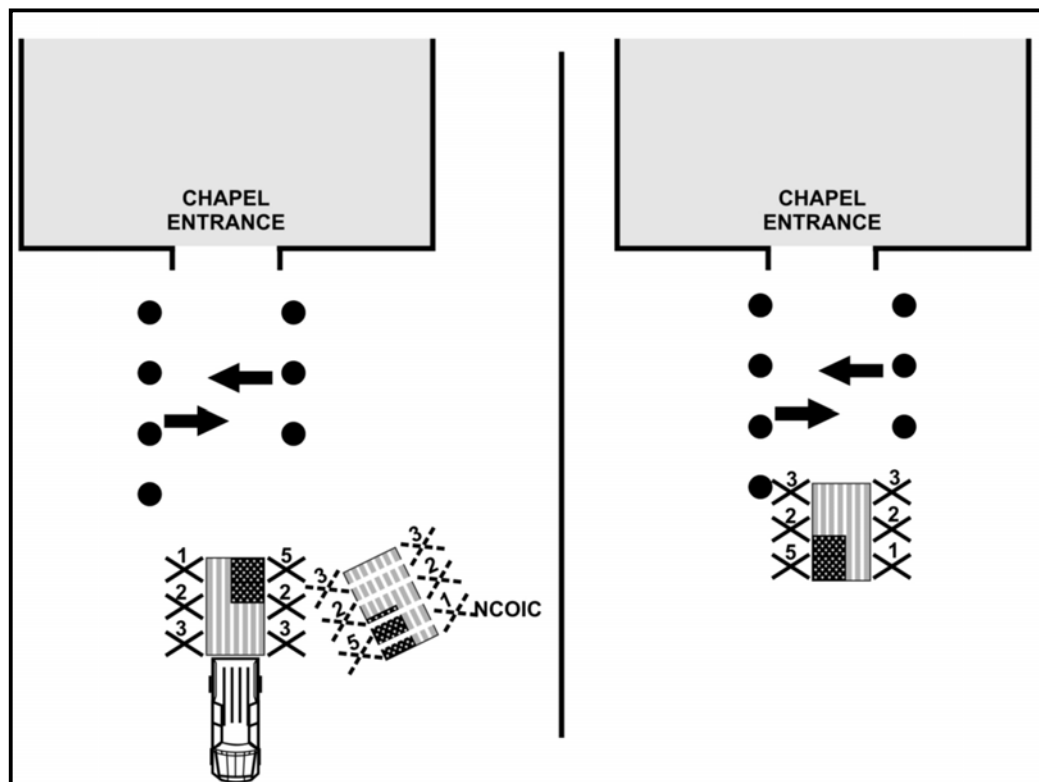


Figure 14-2. Carrying the casket inside.

f. Once the casket is borne between the firing party members, the NCOIC commands ***Firing party, present, ARMS***. The firing party and NCOIC *Present Arms* until the casket enters the chapel door, at which time the NCOIC commands ***Order, ARMS***. The firing party then departs under the control of the NCOIC, and they travel to the gravesite and make preparations for the gravesite ceremony. The bugler, if not already at the gravesite, travels with the firing party.

g. Having entered the chapel, the pallbearers carry the casket to the front of the church. If a church truck is available, the casket is placed on the truck at the entrance of the chapel and pushed to the front by the senior pallbearer and one other. The pallbearers then take seats, as directed by the chaplain, until the conclusion of the chapel service.

h. After the service, the pallbearers either carry the casket or push it on a church truck from the front of the chapel to the exit. The casket is placed directly into the conveyance with the senior and number 1 pallbearers being the last to release their casket handles. The funeral director secures the doors of the conveyance.

i. The pallbearers board their transportation and travel to the interment site to prepare for the graveside ceremony. The funeral party travels in the following order (Figure 14-3, page 14-6):

- NCOIC, firing party, and bugler.
- Clergy.
- Conveyance with casket.
- Active pallbearers.

- Family and CAO.
- Friends.

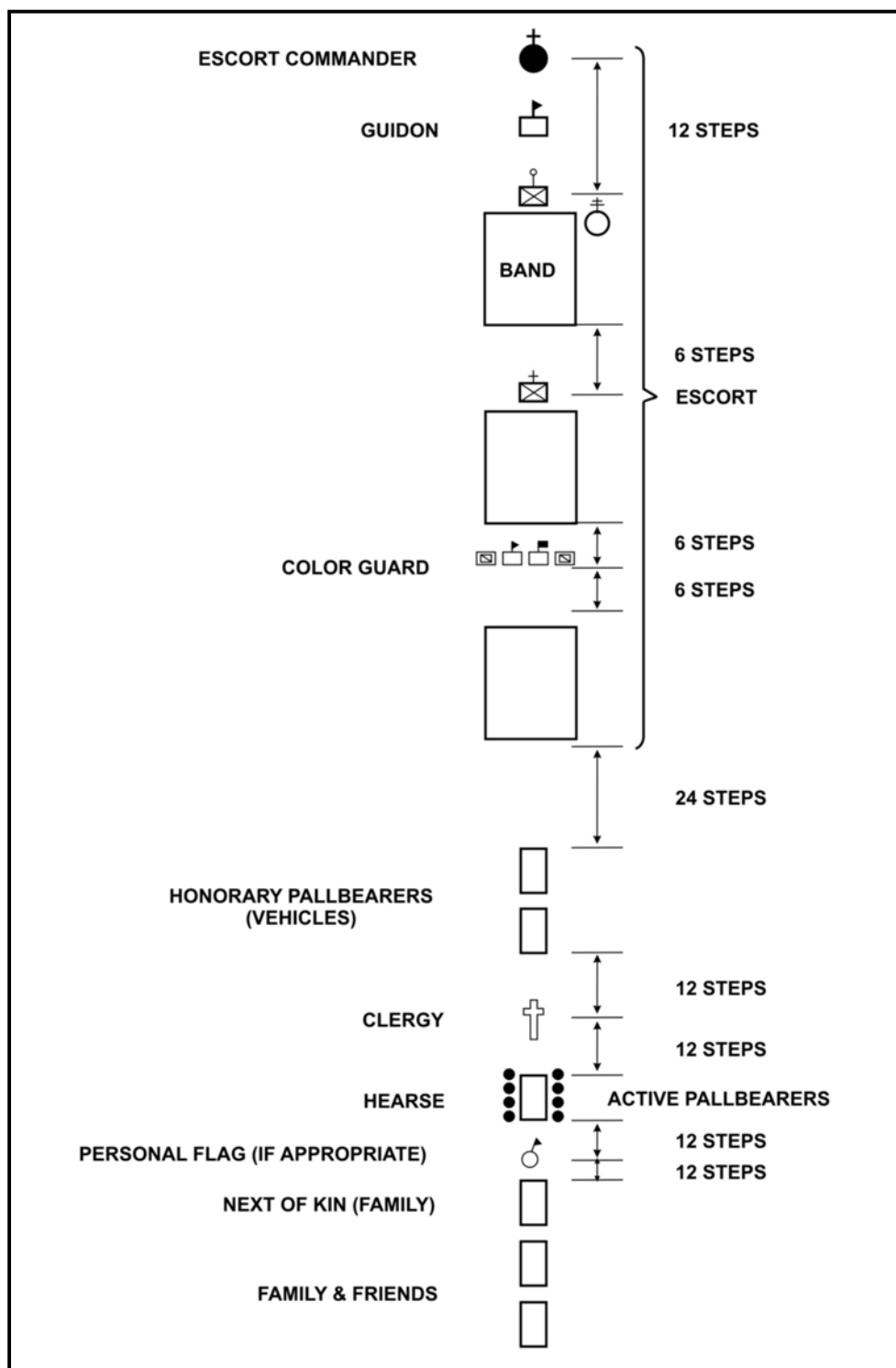


Figure 14-3. Funeral procession.

j. After the procession is formed, it travels directly to the gravesite. Upon arrival, the CAO positions himself between the chaplain and the head of the gravesite. The pallbearers form and remove the casket from the conveyance the same as previously outlined (Figure 14-4).

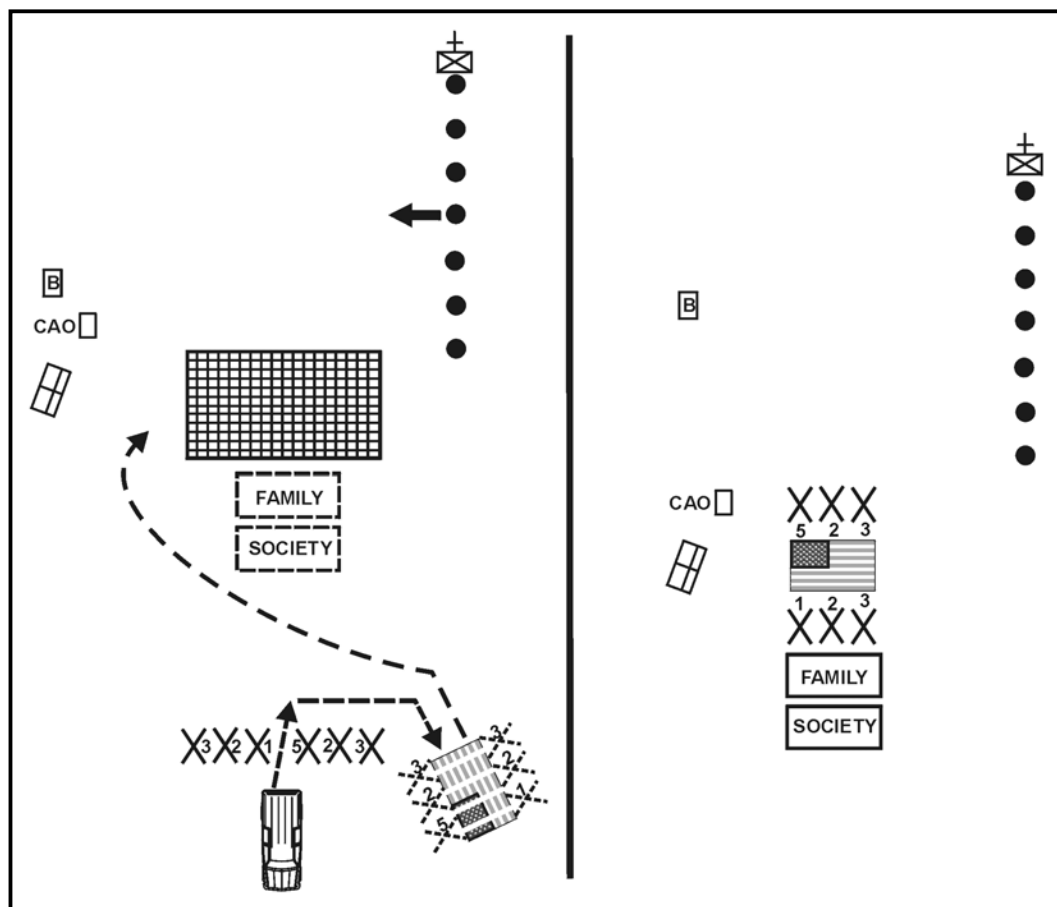


Figure 14-4. Graveside formation.

k. Once the casket is removed from the conveyance, the NCOIC commands the firing party and bugler to *Present Arms*.

l. The pallbearers carry the casket, feet first, to the grave. Upon reaching the grave, the casket is placed on the lowering device. The pallbearers raise the flag from the casket and hold it in a horizontal position waist high, until the conclusion of “Taps.”

m. When the casket is placed over the grave, the NCOIC commands the firing party, and the bugler to *Order Arms* and *Parade Rest*. The NCOIC terminates his *Salute* and assumes the position of *Parade Rest*.

n. After *Parade Rest* has been commanded, the chaplain conducts the graveside service. At the conclusion of the benediction the NCOIC commands **Firing party, ATTENTION** and directs **FIRING PARTY, FIRE THREE VOLLEYS**. The CAO executes *Present Arms*. The firing party fires three volleys of blank cartridges, assumes the position of *Present Arms* at the command of the NCOIC, and remains in this position

until the conclusion of “Taps.” The bugler, positioned near the firing party and in view of the next of kin, sounds “Taps” immediately following the last volley.

o. At the conclusion of “Taps,” the firing party comes to *Order Arms* and *Parade Rest* at the command of NCOIC. The CAO terminates his *Salute*.

p. The pallbearers then fold the flag without letting the flag touch the casket. As the flag is folded, it is passed to the senior pallbearer at the head of the casket, who makes the final tuck. (See Appendix K for detailed information on folding the flag.)

q. After the flag is folded, the senior pallbearer executes a *Right Face* and places the flag at chest level into the hands of the CAO. The senior pallbearer salutes the flag for three seconds after presenting it to the CAO and the CAO salutes the flag for three seconds before taking it from the pallbearer. The CAO then moves by the most direct route to the next of kin who is to receive the flag. Upon presentation, the CAO renders appropriate remarks such as, “As a representative of the United States Army, it is my high privilege to present to you this flag. Let it be a symbol of the grateful appreciation our nation feels for the distinguished service rendered to our country and our flag by your loved one.” After the flag is presented, the CAO returns to his original position.

r. After the presentation is completed, the NCOIC marches the firing squad and the bugler away from the gravesite. At the first *Halt*, the rifles of the firing party are cleared and inspected, which concludes the ceremony.

14-6. TWO-MAN HONOR DETAIL

A two-man honor detail provides graveside honors by the playing of “Taps” and the flag folding and presentation to the appropriate family member. Use the following procedures to conduct a military funeral with a two-man honor detail.

a. Once the Army CAC is alerted, it arranges for the two-man honor detail to arrive at the interment site at the appropriate time to provide graveside honors.

(1) The leader of the detail has many responsibilities to include contacting the funeral director to confirm the date, time, and location of the interment service. The leader ensures that the funeral director has obtained a flag and will bring a backup flag to the ceremony in case it is needed.

(2) The leader confirms and coordinates participation of the second member of the detail.

(3) When all coordination is completed, the final preinterment activity is to train and rehearse the detail. A mandatory training item is to carefully watch a video demonstration tape provided by DOD to each installation.

(4) On the day of the interment ceremony, the detail leader confirms arrangements with the funeral director and coordinates necessary cues at the interment site.

b. The rendition of “Taps” may be by bugler or by device.

(1) The CAC actively searches for a bugler. Bugler support may be from an Army band (Active or Reserve component), contracted, or voluntary.

(2) If a bugler is not available, the CAC uses the high-quality recording of the U. S. Army band bugler provided by OSD on compact disk. Many national and private cemeteries have sound systems that play “Taps” at the interment site. However, CACs cannot assume availability of such systems and must have a sufficient number of high-quality, portable CD players to provide their own sound system at funerals. (A portable CD player that can be easily heard by all attendees at the interment ceremony is

recommended.) Before departing for a funeral, the detail leader must determine if a sound system is available or if the CAC must provide a sound system to the honors detail.

c. The detail arrives at the interment site early and conducts a reconnaissance and rehearsal. Part of the reconnaissance is the selection of a location for the bugler or CD player that will sound “Taps.” The detail leader sets up and tests the CD player, ensuring the unit and its remote controls are working properly and that it is out of site of the family.

(1) When everything is prepared, the detail leader positions the detail in their designated place before the arrival of the funeral cortege. The detail leader positions himself near the recording device; the other members(s) will be positioned near the foot of the grave.

(2) The leader brings the team to *Attention* and *Present Arms* as the remains are carried to the gravesite by civilian pallbearers. He commands **Order, ARMS** when the casket is placed on the lowering device.

(3) At the conclusion of the committal service the detail leader sounds “Taps” electronically, or directs the bugler to sound “Taps.” Installations must ensure that honor detail training directs that the recording device be positioned out of sight of the family and be played in a dignified manner as shown in the training video from DOD.

(4) Although the CD player should be out of sight, activating the “play” button should be performed with precision and distinction by bending over, activating the recorder, and then stepping back one step and assuming the *Position of Attention*.

(5) Each detail member will *Present Arms* during “Taps” and will execute *Order Arms* at its completion. At the conclusion of “Taps,” the detail leader ensures the recording device is turned off and then proceeds in a dignified and military manner to the head of the casket.

d. For flag folding, upon conclusion of “Taps,” the representative and his assistant move closer to the casket. When the flag is secured and raised, the detail takes three steps away from the mourners and fold the flag. When the flag is properly folded, the detail assistant hands the flag to the detail leader and posts to a position next to the side or rear of the family. After the assistant departs, the detail leader presents the flag to the next of kin using the following wording: “As a representative of the United States Army, it is my high privilege to present to you this flag. Let it be a symbol of the grateful appreciation our nation feels for the distinguished service rendered to our country and our flag by your loved one.” After presenting the flag, the detail leader offers condolences.

e. There are two types of remains: casket and cremated. Each has its own sequence of events for the graveside service. The sequence described above is for casket remains. Procedures for cremated remains are different only in that the flag is carried behind the urn and placed on a display device next to the urn. After “Taps” is sounded, the flag is unfolded, secured, and refolded approximately three side-steps from the mourners. It is then presented to the next of kin in the same manner as for casket remains. The detail leader then offers condolences.

f. The Reserve Components (RC), along with the active Army, are required to participate in funeral details. The Army National Guard (ARNG) and U. S. Army Reserve (USAR) have a single point of contact (POC) in each ARNG state area command (STARC) or USAR Regional Support Command (RSC) to which a request for assistance can be made. When the active Army is unable to support the request, or it is

more prudent for the RC unit to provide honors, the CAC contacts the RC POC at either the STARC or RSC for military funeral honors support. If the RC POC does not respond to the request for support within two hours, the CAC should again contact the RC POC. When the RC is unable to support the request for assistance, the CAC is responsible for providing the honors. The casualty and memorial affairs operations center, PERSCOM will provide a list of RC POCs to the CACs. CACs should establish memorandums of agreement with RC POCs and other military organizations within their area of responsibility specifying requirements and responsibilities.

g. Not all funerals will be authorized the human resources as outlined in this sequence of events; therefore the CAO and NCOIC will extract those portions of the sequence that apply to their funeral detail contingent.

h. Additions to an element of the funeral detail not specifically addressed in this sequence of events is not authorized. Requests for exceptions to policy will be directed to TRADOC.

NOTE: If a military chaplain is not present, the OIC or NCOIC presents the flag to the next of kin.

14-7. GRAVESIDE SERVICE

For a funeral without chapel service, all elements of a military funeral are present and used as previously described. However, if troops are not conveniently available, or if the family wishes to eliminate other elements, the following are used (Figure 14-6):

- Clergy.
- Officer in charge or noncommissioned officer in charge, appropriate to the grade of the deceased (AR 600-25).
- Active pallbearers.
- Firing party.
- Bugler.
- Personal Color bearer (if appropriate).

These elements are in position at the graveside before the arrival of the remains.

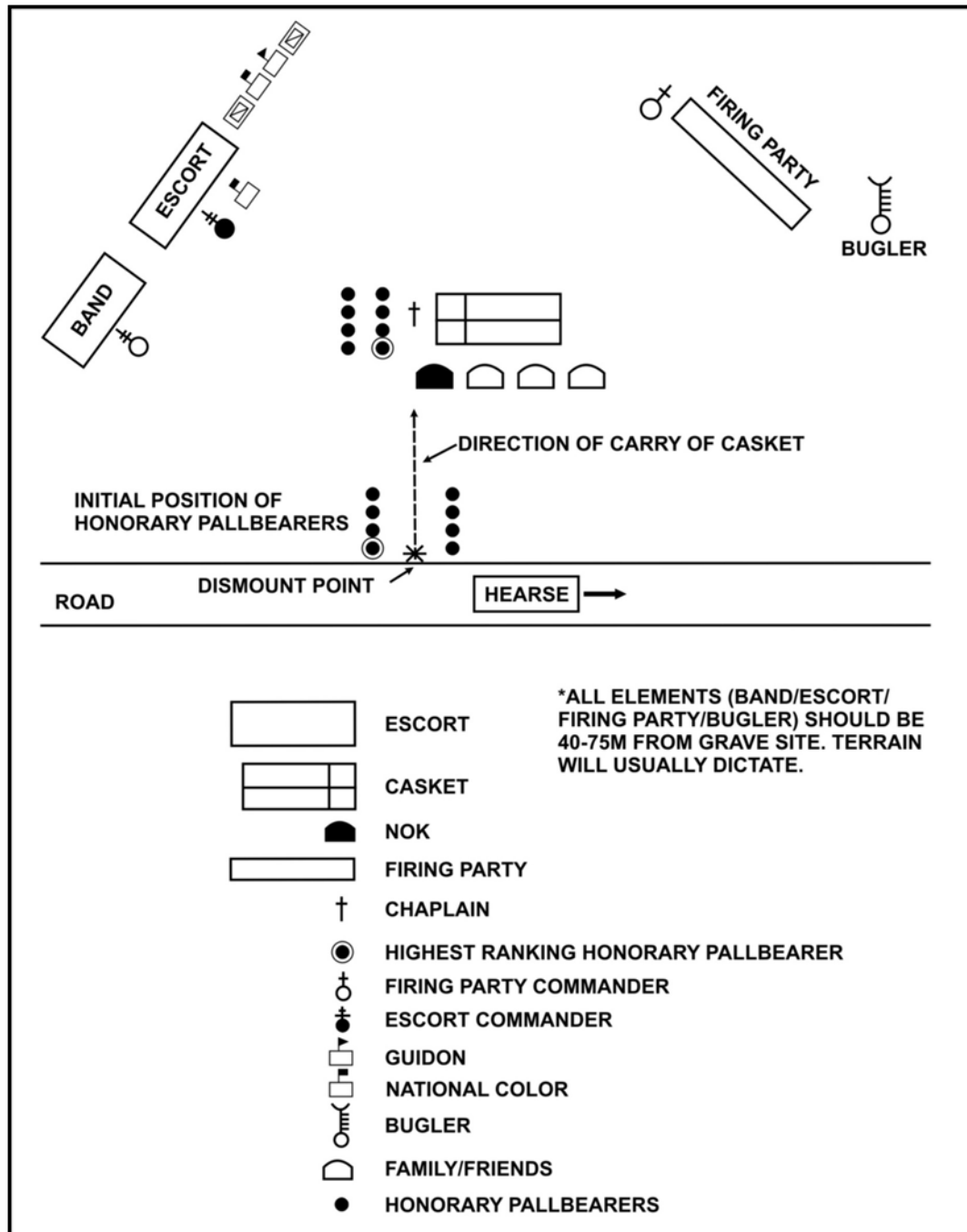


Figure 14-6. Graveside service.

14-8. CREMATED REMAINS

When the remains are cremated and the ashes interred with military honors, the previously stated provisions, with necessary modifications, will govern.

- a. For all phases of the funeral, where the cremated remains are carried by hand, one man is detailed to carry the receptacle (casket) containing the ashes and another is detailed to carry the flag, folded into the shape of a cocked hat. The pallbearer carrying

the flag is always positioned to the right of the remains (Figure 14-7). When the receptacle is carried from the hearse into the chapel and from the chapel to the hearse, these two men are the only participants in the ceremony. During the procession to the gravesite, the receptacle and flag are carried by the two pallbearers followed by four additional pallbearers. When the receptacle has been placed on the gravesite, all six pallbearers unfold the flag and hold it over the grave.

b. When the receptacle and flag are placed before the chancel of the chapel or transported to gravesite by vehicle, the receptacle and folded flag are placed side by side. If the pallbearers walk to the gravesite, the two bearers who carried the receptacle and the flag join the other four pallbearers already pre-positioned on either side of the hearse.

c. When no hearse is used, suitable transportation is provided for the receptacle and flag bearers, and the other pallbearers.

d. When the remains are moved to a crematory and the ashes are to be interred with military honors at a later time, the ceremony consists only of the escort to the crematory. All personnel salute as the remains are carried into the crematory. The firing of volleys and the sounding of “Taps” are omitted. When the funeral ceremony is held at the crematory, and when no further honors are anticipated, the volleys are fired and “Taps” is sounded at the discretion of the commanding officer.

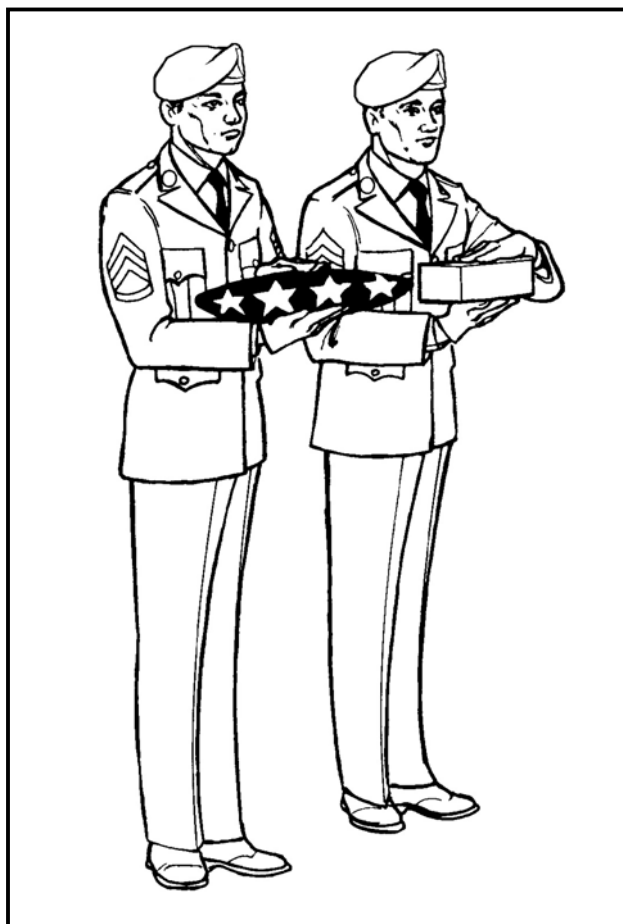


Figure 14-7. Pallbearers for cremated remains.

NOTE: In this situation, the flag is carried left hand over right hand with the point forward.

14-9. CEREMONY BEFORE SHIPMENT OF REMAINS

When the remains of a deceased soldier are moved to a railway station or other point for shipment to another place for interment or final disposition, funeral services are modified as necessary. When no further military honors are anticipated at the place of interment or final disposition, the volleys are fired and “Taps” sounded at the discretion of the commanding officer. When military honors are anticipated at the place of final disposition, the volleys and “Taps” are omitted.

14-10. CANNON SALUTE

When the funeral of a general officer on the active or retired list, who was entitled to a *Cannon Salute*, takes place at or near a military installation, guns equal to the number to which the officer was entitled (AR 600-25) may be fired at noon on the day of the funeral. The military installation mentioned in general orders will fire the prescribed *Salutes*. Immediately preceding the benediction, a *Cannon Salute* corresponding to the grade of the deceased (AR 600-25) is fired at five-second intervals. Following the benediction, three volleys of musketry are fired.

14-11. FUNERALS OFF POST

The commander, upon request, provides a funeral detail for deceased active duty or retired Army personnel when the burial is to take place in a civilian or national cemetery off the installation (for veteran funerals, see AR 600-25). The detail is normally composed as follows:

- Officer in charge or noncommissioned officer in charge.
- Six active pallbearers.
- Firing party.
- Bugler.

NOTE: When military pallbearers are not available, the firing party will fold the flag.

a. The arrangements for the funeral are supervised by the survivor assistance officer. The officer in charge or noncommissioned officer in charge of the funeral detail coordinates all aspects of the ceremonies with this officer.

b. Upon arrival at the city where the funeral is to be conducted, the officer in charge or noncommissioned officer in charge meets the survivor assistance officer and ascertains the sequence of the ceremony. The normal sequence of events is as follows:

(1) At the funeral home, on the order of the funeral director, the pallbearers move the casket to the hearse. The pallbearers should be certain to carry the casket feet first and level at all times.

(2) At the church:

(a) The active pallbearers carry the casket from the hearse into the chapel.

(b) When the casket has been placed on the church truck, two pallbearers push the truck to the front of the church while the other pallbearers move to the vestibule and await the termination of the church service. If there is no church truck, the pallbearers carry the casket to the front of the church as instructed by the funeral director or minister concerned. If desired by the family, the active pallbearers may occupy the pews (seats) to the left front of the church.

(c) After the church service, the pallbearers, under the direction of the funeral director, move the casket to the hearse. When the casket has been placed in the hearse, the pallbearers enter their vehicles.

(3) At the cemetery:

(a) The officer in charge or a designated individual commands the pre-positioned firing party and bugler to **Detail, ATTENTION** and **Present, ARMS** as soon as the casket is moved from the hearse. The command **Order, ARMS** is given when the casket reaches the grave.

(b) The pallbearers carry the casket, feet first and level, to the grave. On reaching the grave, the casket is placed on the lowering device. The pallbearers raise the flag from the casket and hold it in a horizontal position, waist high, until the conclusion of "Taps."

(c) The remainder of the ceremony is conducted as previously prescribed.

(d) Firing is conducted as outlined in paragraph 14-17.

14-12. PARTICIPATION OF AVIATION

When aviation participates in a military funeral, it is timed so that the aircraft appear over the procession.

14-13. PARTICIPATION OF FRATERNAL OR PATRIOTIC ORGANIZATIONS

The family or representative of the deceased may request fraternal or patriotic organizations, of which the deceased was a member, to take part in the funeral service. With immediate family approval fraternal or patriotic organizations may conduct graveside service at the conclusion of the military portion of the ceremony, signified by the flag presentation to the next of kin and escort departure from the cemetery.

14-14. DUTIES OF THE CHAPLAIN

The chaplain takes his position in front of the chapel before the arrival of the remains. He precedes the casket when it is carried from the hearse into the chapel and from the chapel to the hearse. While the remains are being placed in the hearse, he stands at the rear and to the side facing the hearse. When he is wearing vestments, he may, at his discretion, proceed from the chancel to the sacristy (vestry) at the conclusion of the chapel service and divest, joining the procession before it moves from the chapel. He then precedes the hearse to the graveside and precedes the casket to the grave.

14-15. PRELIMINARY ARRANGEMENTS

The officer in charge of a military funeral, the commander of the escort, the funeral director, and the superintendent of the cemetery or his representative visit the places involved and make careful arrangements before the time set for the funeral. They determine the positions at the grave for the various elements of the funeral and make arrangements for traffic control.

14-16. FLORAL TRIBUTES

In the absence of the chaplain, the chaplain's assistant helps the funeral director in arranging all floral tributes in the chapel. The commanding officer or his representative coordinates the necessary transportation with the funeral director for prompt transfer of floral tributes from the chapel to the gravesite. The vehicle bearing the floral tributes is loaded promptly at the conclusion of the chapel service. It precedes the funeral procession, moving as rapidly as practicable to the site of the grave. The funeral procession does not move from the chapel until the vehicle carrying the floral tributes has cleared the escort. The funeral director or the cemetery representative is responsible for removing cards and making a record that gives a brief description of the floral piece pertaining to each card. After completion of the funeral services, the cards and records are turned over to a member of the family of the deceased.

14-17. RULES FOR CEREMONIAL FIRING

For ceremonial firing, the firing party consists of not more than eight riflemen and not less than five with one noncommissioned officer in charge (Figure 14-8, page 14-16). The firing party is normally pre-positioned at the gravesite and facing in the direction that allows it to fire directly over the grave. However, care should be taken to ensure that rifles are fired at a 45-degree angle from the horizontal.

a. To load:

(1) Magazines or clips are loaded with three rounds and blank adapters are attached before forming the firing party.

(2) At the conclusion of the religious services or on the escort commander's command, the noncommissioned officer in charge commands ***With blank ammunition, LOAD***. At the command **LOAD**, each rifleman executes *Port Arms*, faces to the half right, and moves his right foot 10 inches to the right to a position that gives him a firm, steady stance. He then chambers a round, places the weapon in the safe position, and resumes *Port Arms*.

b. To fire by volley:

(1) When the riflemen have completed the movements and the weapons are locked, the commands are ***Ready, Aim, FIRE***. At the command ***Ready***, each rifleman moves the safety to the fire position. On the command ***Aim***, the rifle is shouldered with both hands with the muzzle to the front at an angle of 45 degrees from the horizontal. On the command of execution **FIRE**, the trigger is squeezed quickly, and the weapon is immediately returned to *Port Arms*.

(2) To continue the firing with weapons that function automatically (blank adapter), the commands ***Aim*** and **FIRE** are given and executed as previously prescribed. To continue the firing with weapons that must be manually operated to chamber another round (without blank adapters), the commands ***Ready, Aim, FIRE*** are again given. On the command ***Ready***, each rifleman manually chambers the next round. The commands ***Aim*** and **FIRE** are then given and executed as previously prescribed.

(3) When the third round has been fired and the riflemen have resumed *Port Arms*, the noncommissioned officer in charge commands **CEASE FIRING**. The riflemen immediately place the weapon on safe, assume the *Position of Attention* (at *Port Arms*), and face to half left. From this position, the firing party is commanded to *Present Arms*.

before the playing of “Taps.” After “Taps,” they are commanded to *Order Arms*. The noncommissioned officer in charge executes a *Right (Left) Face* and remains at *Attention* until the flag has been folded and saluted by the officer in charge or noncommissioned officer in charge of the funeral detail. At this time, the firing party noncommissioned officer in charge executes a *Right (Left) Face* and commands ***Right (Left), FACE; Port, ARMS;*** and ***Forward, MARCH.*** The weapons are unloaded and cleared as soon as possible after leaving the gravesite.

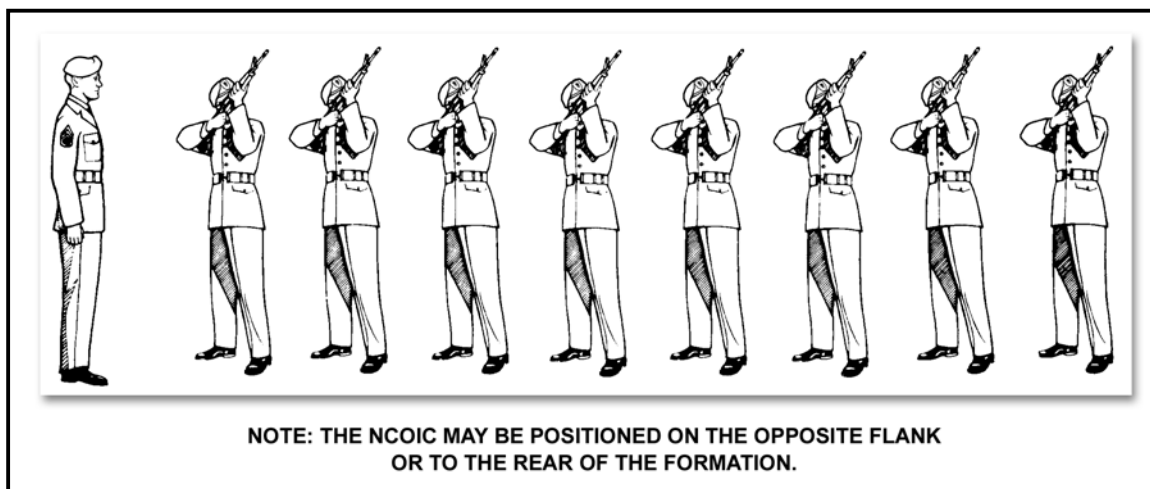


Figure 14-8. Position of fire, ceremonial firing.